

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 10999 171203Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /013 W
-----045408 172035Z /53-R
R 171030Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3138

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 10999

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TSCI, TH
SUBJECT: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STAFFING

REF: STATE 93187

1. THAILAND IS A DEVELOPING COUNTRY WITH MODEST BUT GROWING SCIENTIFIC CAPABILITY. ITS LIMITED OUTPUT OF ORIGINAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH IS CONCENTRATED PRIMARILY IN AGRICULTURE, SPECIFICALLY IN DEVELOPMENT OF IMPROVED VARIETIES OF RICE, CORN , SORGHUM. PEANUTS AND RUBBER SUITABLE FOR THAI GROWING CONDITIONS. THERE IS ALSO SOME WORK IN APPLIED MICROBIOLOGY AND BASIC ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH. WHILE THESE RESEARCH EFFORTS ARE IMPORTANT TO THAILAND, THEIR EMPHASIS ON APPLIED RATHER THAN PURE RESEARCH MAKES THAI EFFORTS OF LITTLE DIRECT SCIENTIFIC INTEREST TO TH USG.

2. ALMOST ALL ACIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES OF NOTE IN THAILAND ARE ORGANIZED AND/OR FUNDED BY THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT. IN FY 76 RTG NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL BUDGETED \$58 MILLION FOR PROJECTS IN BOTH NATURAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES. OF THIS AMOUNT \$22.9 MILLION WENT FOR AGRICULTURAL AND BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH, \$16.3 MILLION FOR INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING (LARGELY IRRIGATION PROJECTS) AND \$2.5 MILLION FOR

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 10999 171203Z

MEDICAL RESEARCH.

3. AT PRESENT, AN EMBASSY ECONOMIC OFFICER SPENDS APPROXIMATELY ONE OR TWO MAN-HOURS PER WEEK ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. GEVEN CURRENT LEVEL OF SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES, EMBASSY CONSIDERS THIS OFFICER COULD MET ANY NEEDED EXPANSION OF SCIENCE ACTIVITY WITHOUT

DIFFICULTY. USADI IS ALSO CURRENTLY ASSISTING RTG
IN AREAS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN, ALTERNATE SOURCES
OF ENERGY, AND APPLIED AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, RESEARCH, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BANGKO10999
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780164-0682
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780451/aaaabqzu.tel
Line Count: 66
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 760328ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 93187
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2952045
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STAFFING
TAGS: OSCI, TGEN, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/760328ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014